

Recreation Program Here Among Southland's Best

Torrance enjoys a wide-spread reputation as one of the Southland's most recreation-minded communities with programs to match.

And, according to an informal survey conducted by Councilman David K. Lyman among officials of other Southern California cities, Torrance has become a focal point for the planning of recreation of the future.

Lyman, in his bid for a new four-year term on the City Council, declared that all possible support must be given the Recreation Department for pursuing many far-reaching goals. "Our very future hinges on how we learn to utilize the growing measure of leisure time being made available to the average working man," Lyman said.

"TORRANCE'S Recreation Department has, and must continue to, constantly strive for programs that will involve all age and interest groups," he said.

The councilman noted that four neighborhood parks have been built in the past four years under authorization by the City Council. The city's recreation program, in its full range of nearly 500 separate activities, had a total participation of an unprecedented 6.9 million during fiscal 1966-67.

A scope of programs unmatched in any other comparably-sized community was made available, including cultural events at Joslyn Center, playground activities at local parks and school facilities, athletic programs on a dozen different sports facilities, plus teenage, tiny tot, and senior citizens events.

PROFESSIONALISM contin-

ued its rise among the ranks of Recreation Department personnel, as more and more new staff members had college backgrounds in the fields of recreation, education and sociology.

Director Harry B. VanBelleham was awarded the California Park and Recreation Society's coveted award for outstanding service, and many other department staff were similarly honored for professional achievement.

On the horizon for Torrance's future, Lyman said, are a major regional park

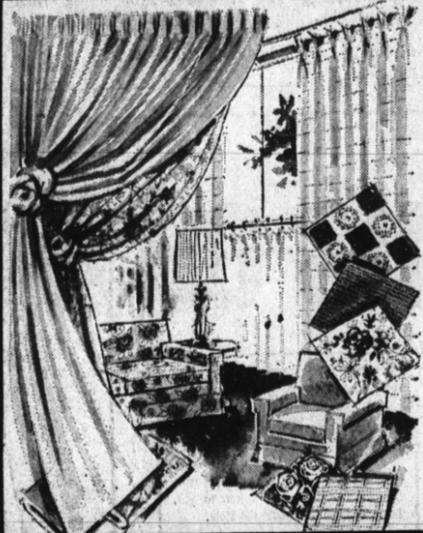
proposed on a sprawling site northeast of Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street, and a large neighborhood park near Del Amo Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard.

"It is evident that our entire council must continue to look toward the future and provide for the recreation facilities of tomorrow—while open space is still available," he said.

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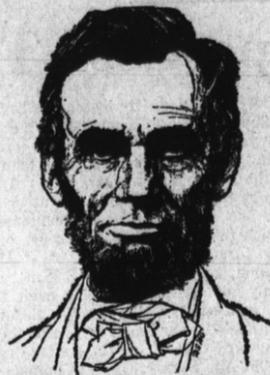
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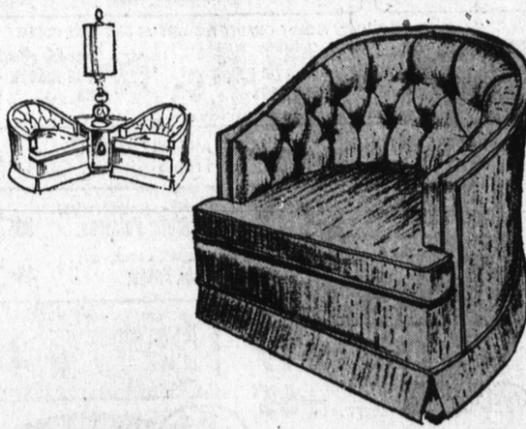
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